



# Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

September 30, 2002

Vol. 02, No. 26

## Early Fall Harvest Work Advances

Wisconsin experienced a cooler than normal week, with temperatures 3 to 6 degrees cooler than normal for this time of year. It was a relatively dry week for most of the state, with rainfalls reported in the north and northwest. These areas are already above normal and did not need the additional rain. It has hampered harvest across these regions, with farmers asking for sun to dry out fields. Growing degree days remained above normal, statewide. There were scattered reports of frost in low areas, but many crops are already safe from damage.

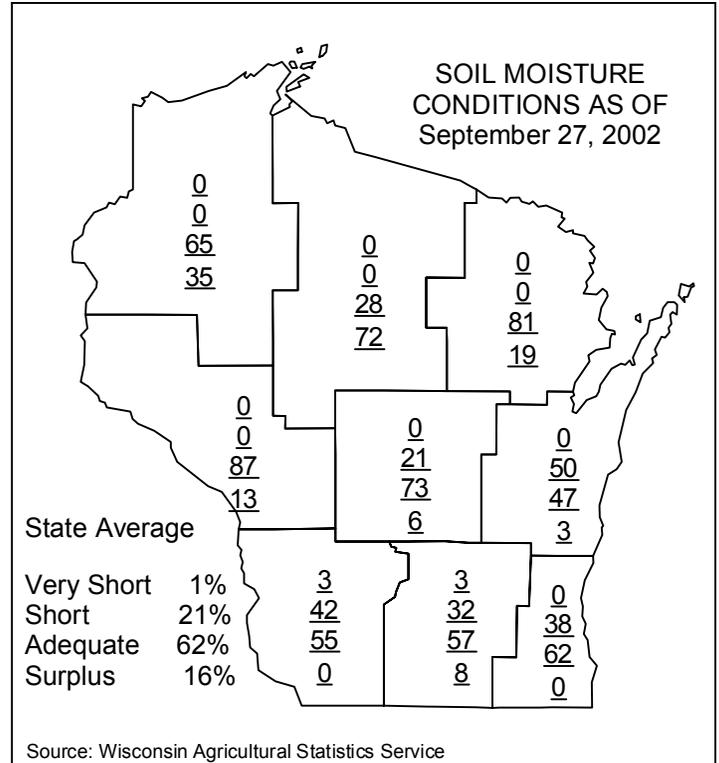
There were an average of 5.2 days suitable for fieldwork in Wisconsin last week. The soil moisture was estimated at 1 percent very short, 21 percent short, 62 percent adequate, and 16 percent surplus. The northern rains pushed many areas to surplus, while in the south, soils were drying out.

**Corn** hastened towards maturity across Wisconsin. Most of the crop appeared to be safe from frost damage. Silage harvest is winding down, with plant moisture dropping quickly. Lodging has become a problem in areas with rootworm infestations. Silage yields were reported to be very good, especially in the north and northwest. Statewide, corn reported as mature was at 51 percent, compared to 36 percent last week and 61 percent for the 5-year average. Seed corn harvest in Columbia County was reported to be progressing rapidly. **Soybean** harvest has begun in areas that were dry last week. Moisture levels were reported from 10-12 percent in some early-harvested fields. Soybeans yields in many parts of the state are anticipated to be above normal. Soybeans dropping leaves statewide, was at 81 percent, compared to 51 percent last week and 77 percent for the 5-year average.

**Hay** harvesting appeared to be nearing completion in most areas. Quantity and quality of late crops was above normal. Rains made harvesting in bales difficult in the north. Pepin County reported good hay supplies and farmers not taking fourth crop. Grant County reported new seedings of hay looked good.

**Apple** harvest in Door County was reported at 50 percent complete. Harvest around the state continued, with good quality in the north. **Vegetable** harvest for canning companies continued to advance. **Sweet corn** harvest was finishing in southern Wisconsin. **Cranberry** harvest in central Wisconsin advanced in the last week. **Potato** harvest advanced with cooler temperatures.

**Winter wheat** planting progressed and **fall tillage** was just beginning in scattered areas of the state.

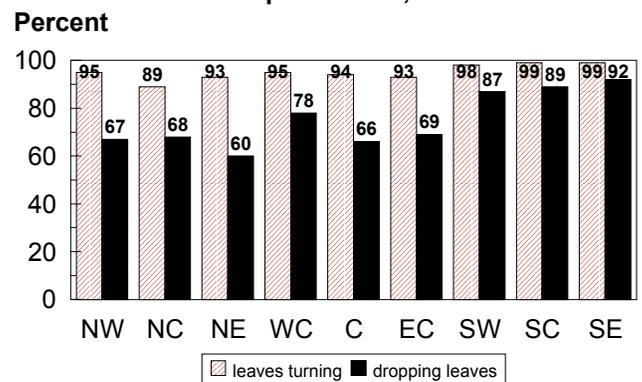


## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 27, 2002

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	1	4	29	55	11
Corn	2	12	22	47	17
Soybean	2	8	25	48	17

## Soybeans

Wisconsin by District  
September 29, 2002



## Wisconsin Crop Progress, September 29, 2002

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This year	Last year	5-year average
Corn in dent stage	91	92	94	95	92	90	98	94	99	93	78	93
Corn mature	42	34	33	54	57	50	60	64	55	51	36	61
Corn hvstd. for silage	43	36	39	60	52	62	69	67	76	58	42	63
Soybean turning color	95	89	93	95	94	93	98	99	99	97	86	94
Soybean dropping leaves	67	68	60	78	66	69	87	89	92	81	51	77
Third cutting hay	86	83	92	97	96	98	99	98	99	94	93	94
Fourth cutting hay	31	25	25	41	40	45	65	60	60	47	39	n.a.

**Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents**

**BAYFIELD-S.S.:** A lot of second crop hay made last week. Corn looks good. First frost on Monday. Everything at a standstill with 2.5 inches of rain over the last few days.

**POLK-C.H.:** Corn silage yields significantly better than last year. Early corn harvest indicates corn borer problems; a need to harvest as soon as possible. Corn moisture 30-35% (kernel). Slow progress in regard to winter wheat planting. Soybean harvest will begin when we get a drier moisture pattern.

**MARATHON-M.K.:** Wet and wetter fields are too wet to harvest hay. Too wet to chop corn. The corn is still high in moisture for grain and silage.

**PRICE-M.K.:** Unbelievably wet weather continues to hamper fieldwork. Much silage could be chopped, but fields are too wet to get in. Fall tillage is going to have to wait for dryer conditions.

**LANGLADE-K.W.:** Rain again this morning. May now begin posing a problem for harvest.

**MARIONETTE-S.R.:** Need more sun so harvesting can move forward.

**BUFFALO-C.D.:** Ready to start harvest if things would dry off.

**PEPIN-H.R.:** Third crop hay good quality, but hard to make bales. Very good chopping. Very good fourth crop made. Most farms in this area have plenty of hay, so they are not even taking fourth crop. Lots of corn silage put up. Lots of ears seem to be dropping in some fields. Corn borer problem in shanks. Soybeans look very good.

**WAUPACA-D.L.H.:** Third and fourth crop hay yields are near normal with late fall rains. Quality is good. Weeds are growing vigorously! Lots of corn is being put in silos. Quality is good. We had a light frost Monday morning.

**WAUSHARA-J.J.:** Potato harvest in full swing with cooler weather. Some fourth cutting of hay available, but not harvesting yet. Most silo filling done; some waiting on bags.

**CALUMET-M.G.:** Silage yields higher than expected. Hay pretty much done. Sweet corn finished.

**DOOR-M.F.:** Grapes ready to pick. Apples 50 percent complete. Frost in low areas Friday.

**MANITOWOC-S.H.:** Silage yield off 10-15 percent. Greenstem syndrome problem in soybeans. Watch lodging on corn.

**GRANT-L.F.:** Most third and fourth crop hay is already harvested, with very good yields and quality. New seeding looks real good. Most is very green for this time of the year. Pastures are in good shape. Corn in our area is going to be a great crop; all dented and getting ready to harvest. Most silage all done. Soybeans starting to lose their leaves and lots of soybeans on stalks clear to the top. Most vegetables are being harvested. Had two cool nights, but have had no frost yet. No rain with any measurable amounts. It is sort of dry.

**IOWA-S.M.:** Corn silage is getting almost too dry. Combining soybeans has started. Sixty acres went 60 bushels per acre and 10.6 percent moisture.

**DANE-D.F.:** Seed corn harvest has progressed well. Some farmers beginning high moisture corn. Early-planted short season soybeans are starting to be harvested. Dry weather this week should promote soybean harvest. Apple and pumpkin numbers are down.

**DODGE-L.P.:** Some third crop hay to make yet. A lot of silage being made. Soybeans drying down fast. Had a little frost one night.

**RACINE-L.F.:** Soybean harvest has started. Reports of 30-40 bushels per acre with 11.5 percent moisture. Removal of the soybeans is making way for the planting of winter wheat crop.

**WAUKESHA-R.F.:** Corn for silage is done. Soybeans look fair, but small pods. Hay is done.



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This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.

**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 29, 2002**

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation			
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg dep. from normal*	Mar. 1 to Sept. 28	Mar. 1 to Sept. 28 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	60	41	67	34	50	-6	2757	2417	0.68	6.15	2.64	34.07
Green Bay	63	41	71	35	52	-3	2487	2282	0.05	2.64	-0.26	23.51
La Crosse	64	43	72	36	53	-6	3012	2722	0.52	3.57	0.42	26.26
Madison	66	41	76	34	54	-3	2755	2676	0.06	2.35	-0.51	22.02
Milwaukee	66	47	74	42	56	-4	2818	n.a.	0.03	2.15	-0.92	22.76

1/Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°))/2-50°; where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. \*Normal based on 1961-90 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.